

Dear parents/carers,

I hope that you are all well. I am looking forward to a time when I am writing to you about things other than coronavirus. In the meantime there are a couple of important updates to make you aware of.

Firstly, you may have seen that it has been announced that from today, students no longer need to wear face masks in classrooms. We will inform students first thing this morning. In addition, from Thursday 27 January, face masks are no longer recommended in communal areas for staff and students. This is national guidance, and as we have done throughout the pandemic, we will follow the guidance.

Secondly, this week has seen the introduction of new rules in relation to self-isolation periods and testing. People who are self-isolating with COVID-19 will now have the option to reduce their isolation period after 5 full days if they test negative with a lateral flow test on both day 5 and day 6 and they do not have a temperature. For example, if they test negative on the morning of day 5 and the morning of day 6, they can end their isolation and return to the academy. The first test must be taken no earlier than day 5 of the self-isolation period, and the second must be taken the following day. If the result of either of their tests is positive, they should continue to self-isolate until they get negative results from two lateral flow tests on consecutive days or until they have completed 10 full days of self-isolation, whichever is earliest. Anyone who is unable to take lateral flow tests or anyone who continues to have a temperature will need to complete the full 10 day period of self-isolation.

Additionally, the school age immunisations team have informed us that they intend to come to the academy on 2 March to administer covid vaccines; this will be first doses for those who were not previously eligible and second doses for those who have already had the first dose. I will inform you when we have more information about this. As has previously been the case, there will be no vaccinations carried out at the academy without parental consent.

Lastly, we have made some minor changes to our behaviour policy. The main principles behind our policy have remained the same, the changes demonstrate how we are trying to increase the levels of support for any student who may receive more than one fixed term exclusion in an academic year. The policy can be found on our website.

As ever, if you have any queries please do not hesitate to get in touch. Thank you as always for your continued support.

Mrs R Coning
Headteacher